



Solar Victory Garden | Frequently Asked Questions

Good for the Community | Good for the Planet

During a 30-year lifespan, the Solar Victory Garden will save CO₂ emissions equaling:



The full Solar Victory Garden proposal is available at the Rassbach Museum.

 **DUNN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
PO Box 437, Menomonie, WI 54751
715-232-8685

The Solar Victory Garden will consist of ground mounted solar arrays behind the Dunn County Historical Society's Rassbach Museum in Menomonie's Wakanda Park. The garden will produce nearly enough electricity through most of the year to power the museum facilities, ensuring substantial financial savings that will be invested in furthering the Society's mission.

The Solar Victory Garden meets the Society's goals to create diverse income streams, reduce costs and develop educational opportunities for visitors of all ages. A community nonprofit leader and collaborator, the Society seeks to kick off efforts to meet the Menomonie City Council's resolution to join state, county and local agencies to ensure all electricity in the state is carbon-free by 2050.

How much money will the solar panels save the Dunn County Historical Society?

The 51.36 kW system produces enough electricity annually to nearly cover the needs of the entire museum. The 25-year electrical production of the system is about \$200,000.

That means that if we do nothing at all, we will lose out on \$200,000 in potential energy savings that could be invested back into the museum. With energy rates increasing by an estimated 20 percent in the next two years, our return on investment will be even greater than we have projected.

How long will the panels last?

While the panels have a 25-year warranty on their lifespan, many last longer, and in 30 years, can still be working at more than 85 percent efficiency.

Will the panels work in the winter?

Yes. Snow can be easily brushed off ground mounted panels. Additionally, they tilt to catch 10 percent more light during the winter months, and can collect reflected light from snow on the underside to add to their productivity.

How much will the panels and installation cost?

The panels and installation cost \$155,492. We have received \$65,178 in grant funding and incentives, and raised more than \$80,000 in donations thus far — a total of \$145,556. This leaves \$9,936 to be raised to begin producing energy. A stretch goal of \$21,800 will complete security, educational signage and landscaping needs.

How else will the project benefit the Society and the community?

As an educational project for all ages and a point of pride for Dunn County, the Solar Victory Garden will be a reminder that investment in renewable energy can be a boon to small businesses and nonprofits. We'll work with others to develop solar energy projects and bring our community closer to its 2050 carbon-free resolution. We look to solar energy as a way to benefit the community and invest in our shared future.